

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1982BUENOS04104

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Channel: n/a

7/12/82

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ACTION HA-06

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 ARA-16 NSAE-00 L-03  
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 SAL-01 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4464  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Declassify~~ ☐ In Part ☒ In Full ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4104

EO 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER

1. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST JOSE WESTERKAMP WAS DETAINED IN THE SOUTHERN CITY OF TRELEW LATE JULY 10 BY ORDER OF A FEDERAL JUDGE, FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WESTERKAMP MADE TO TWO CHUBUT NEWSPAPERS CRITICIZING THE PROVINCIAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS LACKING INDEPENDENCE. WESTERKAMP, A PROMINENT PHYSICIST, HAD TRAVELED TO TRELEW WITH A GROUP OF OTHER ACTIVISTS JULY 6 WITH OFFICIAL PERMITS TO VISIT THEIR CHILDREN BEING HELD AT RAWSON PRISON UNDER DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH (PEN). WESTERKAMP'S SON GUSTAVO HAS BEEN A PEN PRISONER FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS.

2. EMILION MIGNONE, HEAD OF THE CENTER FOR LEGAL SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS) WITH WHICH WESTERKAMP IS ALSO ASSOCIATED, FLEW TO TRELEW ON JULY 11 TO REPRESENT HIS COLLEAGUE IN FEDERAL COURT HERE TODAY (JULY 12).

3. CELS OFFICE HERE AND MRS. WESTERKAMP SAID IT WAS

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NOT CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THAT THE REASON FOR WESTERKAMP'S DETENTION WAS HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE CHUBUT PROVINCE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, BUT

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ASSUMED IT WAS. MRS. WESTERKAMP TOLD EMBOFF THAT HER HUSBAND IS NOT BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO. SHE SAID HE HAD CALLED HER SATURDAY EVENING TO SAY THAT AS HE WAS BOARDING A FLIGHT TO RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES, HE WAS STOPPED BY FEDERAL POLICE WHO HAD A JUDICIAL WARRANT FOR HIS DETENTION, NOT REPEAT NOT HIS ARREST; HE TOLD HER THAT HE HAD BEEN TREATED WITH "DEFERENCE" AND WAS NOT BEING HELD IN A CELL BUT RATHER ALLOWED TO STAY IN THE POLICE STATION LOUNGE PENDING HIS HEARING THIS MORNING. MRS. WESTERKAMP ADDED THAT MIGNONE, AFTER ARRIVING IN TRELEW LAST EVENING, VISITED WITH WESTERKAMP AND THEN CALLED HER TO CONFIRM WHAT HER HUSBAND HAD TOLD HER THE EVENING BEFORE.

4. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE.  
SHLAUDEMAN

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